

# Amalgam wastes



Dental amalgam is considered **hazardous waste** because:

- It contains **up to 50% mercury** and mercury compounds, which are extremely toxic
- in liquid form, it has limited **absorption through skin**
- in vapour form, it is **extremely toxic** (absorbed through lungs, damages immune system; dangerous to unborn child)

Amalgam works on the basis of Cumulative Effect, i.e. the greater the exposure, the greater the effect.

**The only safe waste disposal option is collection and recycling.**



**DO NOT** dispose of mercury or amalgam contaminated wastes in clinical waste bags or sharps containers.



**DO NOT** dispose of amalgam down the drain as this leads to water and land contamination.



**DO NOT** dispose of amalgam with waste destined for incineration as this leads to air contamination.